Series of Essays titled The Fundamentals: A Testimony to the Truth published between 1910 and 1915
“ Edited by conservative Protestant leaders like Rueben Torrey, Amzie Clarence Dixon, Louis Meyer, and Robert E. Speer, these pamphlets at their core “admonished Christians to reject heretical ideas, cling to the truths that were set forth in the bible, and dedicate themselves to disseminating those truths throughout the world.””

1919 - World’s Christian Fundamentals Association
Concerned that World Wars were a sign of the Apocalypse

Believed capture of Palestine by Britain in 1917 (“Jewish homeland”) were evidence of the coming Apocalypse.

Believed the establishment of the League of Nations would create a leader who is the Antichrist

Lutheran Priest Frank Buchman established First Century Christian Fellowship FCCF
“Focused on on alcoholism and other moral issues, the FCCF “sponsored house parties, and practiced a program which included prayers, confession of wrongs, seeking guidance, and making restitution, and a life changing outreach to others.””

Oxford Group - believed that human suffering is caused by sinfulnes
“Confession, accepting individual responsibility for one’s actions, and complete surrender of the ego to god” was the only cure

People who perfectly conformed to his ideal model of spiritual morality through these methods were understood as those who had fallen under “God control,” or the “superhuman power” that is “needed to change the thinking of the ordinary man and those who lead, which transcends class, party, faction, and nation.”56 As will be discussed in this chapter, some of Buchman’s followers would establish AA, which drew heavily on the former’s discourses and practices but replaced the language of God Control with submission to a higher power.

Movement supported prohibition

Scopes monkey trial in 1925 Tennessee - biology teacher tried by a fundamentalist prosecutor for teaching evolution

Fundamentalist movement grew in the south, schools and colleges establish there

FCCF changed name to Oxford Group in 1928 after Buchman visited South Africa

Throughout 1930s fundamentalists established “churches, colleges, newspapers, radio stations, and eventually television programs”

Intentionally created an insular culture away from secular influence

Anticommunist, believed FDR was the Antichrist, New Deal was seen as a “Jewish, Satanic, and communist conspiracy to destroy Christianity”

Buchman was anti-labor movement, anti-atheism
Believed “Jesus is the world’s spiritual savior and he favored the powerful rather than the oppressed”

Buchman was pro-fascist, associated with Nazi party

Oxford Group members Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith founded AA in Akron, Ohio

Oxford Group therapeutic approach didn’t help Wilson get sober

Wilson was given “Belladonna cure”, “a psychotropic cocktail” for four days while OG members prayed around him

During Belladonna cure “Wilson claims to have found God and be liberated from addiction to alcohol, and subsequently came to understand alcoholism as a medical disease as well as a moral/spiritual malady

“The OG formed the foundation of AA’s discourses and practices,76 but Wilson and Smith split with Buchman in 1937 due to differences in their understanding of alcoholism and the objectives of their organizations. While AA’s founders were focused on treating individuals deemed medically ill and morally depraved by coaxing them to surrender to a higher power, Buchman grew more outspoken about using his growing influence to establish a global fascist-Christian order.”

Pro-Hitler because he was anti-communist, anti-drug, anti-alcohol, anti-cigarettes

Publicly said he hoped Hitler would come under God control so that the Nazi war machine would join his cause (Gestapo began surveiling him)

NY AA in 1936 funded by Friends of John Rockefeller Jr

AA members encouraged to become sponsors to maintain sobriety

1937 Bill Wilson writes the program’s official book Alcoholics Anonymous

1941 Lester Roloff moves to Houston and becomes the pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church, later becomes pastor of Park Avenue Church in Corpus Christi

1944 Roloff establishes *The Family Altar* radio program where he proselytizes, sings hymns, describes his ministry's activities

1945 Roloff is forced to move *The Family Altar* to KWBU at Baylor University (a baptist college) because his former radio station relied on advertising $ from liquor industry, Roloff kept preaching temperance

Roloff builds Second Baptist Church and Park Avenue Christian Day School on land outside Corpus Christi

"Drawing on the findings of Nazi scientists in Dachau and Buchenwald,116 the communist POW camps in China and North Korea, the field of classical behaviorism, and ongoing research of radical behaviorists like Skinner, the US military, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) began conducting behavioral experiments and institutionalizing their findings in the Cold War."

Stalin established Scientific Council on Problems of Physiological Theory with Pavlov in 1950

1950 Roloff's mentor, evangelist BB Crimm dies in an accident → Roloff tours the South and gives sermons that are broadcast nationwide, resigns as pastor of Second Baptist Chruch

1951 Roloff establishes Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises (non-profit)

1954 Roloff buys 10 acres in Corpus Christi, founds Alameda Baptist Church, loudspeakers cause a public disturbance → Roloff accuses his neighbors of being communists, criticizes them as a "threat to religious liberty"

1955 Roloff begins *Faith Enterprises* newsletter: sermons, updates on Roloff Evangelical Enterprises activities, schedule for *The Family Altar*, schedule for church services mailed to supporters nationwide

Roloff believes his childhood and early adulthood health issues were resolved by Faith, Fasting, and Food - he writes about it in *Faith Enterprises* and publishes a book called *Faith, Fasting, and Food*

1955 Roloff fired from KWBU "for broadcasting disparaging remarks about his Baptist brethren and for claiming that he was one of the few ministers to preach the true Gospel." → Roloff purchases station from funds gained through donations and loans from supporters, renames KCTA (Know Christ the Answer)

Roloff preaches about "the evils of homosexuality, rock 'n' roll, communism, television, alcohol, tobacco, pork, and psychology", solicits donations of "love gifts" (cash, land, jewelry)

1956 Roloff denounces loyalty to Baptist General Convention

1957 Roloff expands Alameda Baptist Church services offered homeless & alcoholic men (partnered with Good Samaritan rescue mission) to a new community called **City of Refuge** (80 acres outside of Lexington TX, includes women & children

City of Refuge "was intended to be the seventh iteration of the six cities governed by the Levites described in the Old Testament, who were responsible for teaching and enforcing God's laws in Israel after their conquest of Canaan" p 109
Jubilee Ladies Home founded in Corpus Christi to provide services specifically to pregnant girls & unwed mothers

1958 Lighthouse for Boys established (located in a houseboat dormitory on Padre Island) - run by Roloff's former college roommate at Baylor, EA Goodman

"A place for delinquent boys to be isolated from drugs and liquor until they were to be delivered"

Lighthouse for Boys only accessible by plane or boat - Roloff owns private plane and has pilot's license

Lighthouse for Boys participants mostly on court-ordered probation or runaways

"The therapeutic approach consisted of bible study, working in gardens and catching fish to subsist on, the products of which were sent to other Roloff homes and sold commercially. Many who completed the program went on to "prepare for a life of service" as Christian ministers, and some even married female residents from other facilities operated by Roloff Evangelical Enterprises.34" p 109

1950s televangelists like Billy Graham start appearing on TV

1960 Roloff criticizes psychology, sociology, and theology (calls for "kneeology") in *Faith Enterprises*, argues that "hospitals, reform schools and penitentiaries are not the answer, promotes City of Refuge, connect participants to "a faithful Christ for failing men"

1961 Roloff uses donation money to purchase 327 acres outside Corpus Christi to build Anchor Home for Boys, located near airport, 25 min flight from Lighthouse

Believed in biblical inerrancy - "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die" Proberbs 23:13 → Roloff spends life protesting laws that conflict with literal interpretations of KJV

CIA formed Project BLUEBIRD in response, to study behavior influenced by sodium pentothal, mescaline, LSD, THC, heroin

One year later they made it “operational” instead of “experimental” and renamed it ARTICHOKE

Wanted soldiers to be able to resist interrogation and be good at coercive interrogation

SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) program tortured US Air Force pilots so that they could resist interrogation if they were tortured by the enemy

Other behavioral science projects: CHATTER, BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE, and MKULTRA
“which studied the behavioral effects of psychoactive drugs, sensory deprivation, hypnosis, psychotherapy, electroshock therapy, and other techniques, on thousands of witting and unwitting subjects.124 Skinner and other behavioral scientists received contracts to conduct these types of experiments for the US government, which between 1963 and 1984 formed the core of the CIA’s KUBARK Interrogation Manual” p 51

“Contributing to this shift was a presentation made by Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor and researcher Dr. Edgar Schein in 1962, when he was called to present “his theories on brainwashing and the application of such techniques to modify behavior within the prison population” at the Federal Bureau of Prisons Conference in Washington, DC.150 Since he presented a group dynamics theory151 based on interviews with survivors of Chinese and Korean prisoner of war (POW) camps,152 which almost mirrored the strategy of Synanonian TC therapy, the latter was viewed as a desirable means to control dissenting Muslims153 and political radicals.154 That same year, the first Synanon group was established at Terminal Island Correctional facility in 1962,155 but in line with this new approach, its techniques were also adopted by the US Bureau of Prisons and residential homes for troubled youth outside of Dederich’s control, which are discussed further in the chapter. “

1964 Daytop Village founded by Roman Catholic Priest William B O’Brien, psychiatrist Dr. Daniel H. Casriel, probation officer Joseph Shelly, social worker/criminologist Alexander Bassin after O’Brien and Bassin visited Synanon in Connecticut

Daytop Village created through $390k grant from NIMH

1965 Roloff relocates City of Refuge to 273-acre PDT Ranch (Rutherford Plantation) in Culloden GA (no roads, 4 miles from closest neighbors)

Terms of residency published in *Faith Enterprises*: “submit to Christ, quit consuming all psychoactive substances upon entry, commit to at least 90 days, have their incoming and outgoing mail censored, and donate all income to the ministry.”

1966 Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act - allowed drug related charges to be dropped after 3 years if treatment was pursued successfully

Phoenix House 1967 for children and adults (Dr. Mitch Rosenthal founded, deputy commissioner of NYC Addiction Services Agency) based on Synanon community in Santa Monica

Roloff establishes Anchor Home for Boys (Zapata TX) - capacity of 300 boys, built on old Air Force Base 90 miles south of Corpus Christi donated by Roloff Evangelical Enterprises supporter

Roloff establishes Rebekah Home on 79-acre property outside Corpus Christi
Participants <18 "had been convicted of a crime, disobeyed their parents, been involved in [sex work], drank alcohol or used drugs, ran away, or had sex or become pregnant out of wedlock" p 111

Senior students at Rebekah Home were called "helpers"

1967 Roloff solicits donations to Rebekah Home on *Family Altar* saying, "I saw a million little Mephibosheth girls living in the ladn of Lodebar, in juvenile shelters, in jail houses, broken homes, hippie dives, and dope dives. I saw these girls sleeping in parks and walking through the wilderness of sin." Encouraged supporters to be like the servant of King David and "save" them by donating to expand Rebekah Home

Roloff begins transporting groups of girls "Honeybee Quartet" via plane & bus to sing & share testimony about Rebekah Home

Rebekah Home grew to 465-acre property, 300 girls, three dormitories, held Rebekah Christian School, "a bakery, a vehicle maintenance shop, tractor and implement building, a hospitality house, Rolofff's family home, an aircraft hangar and runway, as well as shops, an agricultural and livestock farm, and house trailers for 100 farm workers" p 111

Daytop Village alum Joe Ricci created Elan school (with child psychiatrist Gerald Davidson) to create a "Synanonian therapeutic community" including new additions: isolation in wilderness, "the ring", <3min showers, no looking out windows

Attack therapy focused on one child: "general meeting" at Elan

Elan was antipsychiatry

"Rather than attributing their undesirable thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, to how they were raised, economics, criminalization, or inherent psychopathologies, the discourses used to market these private residential programs frame their participants as a morally depraved and in need of extreme discipline" p 62

Art Barker got $230k from NIMH and $35k from LEAA to start The Seed

Seedlings lived in “host homes” and commute to campus warehouse (later in program allowed to live at actual home)

Seed pulled from AA: “coerced ‘confession of one’s past bad behavior and surrender to a ‘higher power’” but modified so Seed was the higher power (like Synanon)

Seedlings were violently restrained for noncompliance by other seedlings who had progressed further in the program

Synanon believed addiction was caused by “character disorders” and that non-addicts could have them too

Synanon tactics used for Asklepieion (1967) by fed prison system at Marion Federal Penitentiary, then spread to >10 other facilities (paritally funded by LEAA)

Nixon declares War on Drugs 1968 to suppress Black power & anti-war movements

“As it became evident that “white ‘youth in trouble’ were inadvertently being affected by the “punitive climate” at this time, however, “congress intervened to decriminalize certain offenses that policymakers associated with white children and teenagers.”206 While, at the same time, passed new legislation targeting “youth of color who had family members with arrest records, attended public schools, lived in public housing, or received welfare benefits.”207 Policies fueled by white America’s fears of urban black youths caused rates of homelessness and incarceration rates to soar while the availability of publicly funded mental health services simultaneously receded.208 In this context, the potential of privately owned and operated residential facilities became an attractive alternative for (mostly white and wealthy) parents who feared their children would develop substance abuse issues or be convicted of a crime.” p 69

Dederich decided Synanon members could never leave in 1968 bc addiction was incurable

1970 Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) founded in Hendersonville, Tennessee by Donald Ray Howard and Esther Hilte Howard, teaches literal interpretation of the bible

Roloff’s lawyer, David Gibbs Jr, was also counsel for ACE, replaced Howard as president

ACE materials reference Lester “Brother” Roloff favorably and repeatedly

1971 Roloff establishes Bethesda Home in Hattiesburg MS, 210-acre property donated by local pastor of Central Baptist Church,

1972 Roloff moves his family to Hattiesburg MS

October 16, 1972 others joined in support of Roloff's cause in a "great freedom rally" in Austin, Texas. At this event, former residents of the Roloff Homes testified that their experience had positively affected their lives and their parents "told how their children, who had once been hooked on drugs, illicit sex, witchcraft, and were into all sorts of crime and sordid living, had been saved and reclaimed to physical, spiritual, and mental health." p 114

Attica Prison rebellion September 9, 1972 → Nixon attends Nat'l Conference of Corrections in October 1972, created "Long-Range Master Plan" to build prisons with suppression of rebellion prioritized

Special Treatment and Rehabilitation Training (START) @ Marion Fed Penitentiary (based on behavioral scientists Schein & Skinner + tactics from Synanon, including attack therapy)

1973 Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act → Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention & National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Parents visiting their daughter at Rebekah Home see a girl being severely physically abused and report to authorities

Roloff refuses authorities access to facility, argues it violates his first amendment right to separation of church & state

August 3, 1973 "judgment issued… by District Court of Neuces County, Texas, requiring all residential programs for children falling under Roloff Evangelical Enterprises cease operations until they are licensed."

Roloff on *The Family Altar*: "This is the most unbelievable, un-Christian, un-American, and unfair crime that's ever been committed. The killing of twenty-seven people by the homosexual in Houston recently is nothing compared to this. My girls and boys have been scattered and shattered and some are dead already. Others are back on drugs."

January 1974 Roloff held in contempt of court, fined $1500 and sentenced to 5 days in jail

February 1974 Roloff gives a three-hour presentation at a committee meeting, attended by over 100 supporters, sentence reduced to one night instead of 5 days in jail

April 1974 Texas Supreme Court overturns Roloff's conviction bc "it was unclear which residents in his home were considered minors"

Roloff's lawyers file libel suits against media groups who gave negative coverage

1975 Roloff is charged with contempt of court again for refusing to comply with state regulations

Texas State Legislature mandates that all youth residential programs submit to licensing

Dormitory on Lighthouse for Boys property burns down, Austin Land Commission denies Roloff's request to rebuild in same location

New dormitory for Lighthouse for Boys constructed on Rebekah Home grounds

"The Seed was also criticized by Senator Sam Ervin in November of 1974, when he condemned the use of "federal funding for human experiments on prisoners, mental patients, juvenile delinquents, and others"186 to "develop new methods of behavior control capable of altering not just an individual's actions but his very personality and his manner of thinking."187 Ervin was particularly concerned by The Seed for multiple reasons. First, because many participants in these programs experienced "depressions severe enough to require hospitalization, suicidal thoughts, manic and psychotic episodes, and reductions in self-esteem."188 Second, it utilized techniques similar to those deployed by the North Koreans in the 1950's to treat drug users,189 which were so powerful that some participants had come to believe they had serious substance abuse issues even though they had never tried drugs or alcohol. Third, because these experiments were conducted without notifying or asking for permission from the parents of participants, the results of which had never been published despite having received funding to do so" p 65

1976 Childcare Licensing Act goes into effect, District Judge James Meyers issues temporary restraining order against Roloff mandating that he allow the Rebekah Home for Girls, Lighthouse for Boys, and Anchor Home for Boys to be licensed and inspected by state officials → Roloff refuses → held in contempt of court again, sentenced to five days in jail and $50-$1000 fine for each day he continued to operate w/o a license

June 1977 rally for Roloff is held in Austin TX, ~400 attendees

Roloff arrives at jail surrounded by a crowd of children who had survived his homes, spends 4 days there

Attorney General John Hill inspects Rebekah Home, subsequently speaks highly of it and encourages Roloff to pursue US Supreme Court battle

A film about Roloff's legal battle, *Freedom's Last Call,* screened at churches nationwide

November 1977 1500+ preachers attended "Save the Nation Rally" in Dallas TX to support Roloff (& protect separation of church & state)

Chief Juvenile Court Judge John P. Collins of Tucson AZ calls Rebekah Home a "private prison" & holds hearings, including investigating claims of brainwashing

“during an evening sermon Roloff became vocal about his practices including to how he greets new arrivals at the Rebekah Home, when he stated: “When a girl comes to the Rebekah Home I ask her: How much dope? Plenty. Cigarettes? Yes. Alcohol? Yes. Immoral? Yes. Do you know for sure you're not pregnant? No. If you are pregnant do you know who the father is or if he's white or [racial slur]? No.”83 Therefore, demonstrating how Roloff appealed to a racist and patriarchal audience to garner support for the Rebekah Home’s mission, which allowed him to amass great wealth and admiration” p. 121

Rebekah Home - “As soon as they woke, they were required to put on their requisite red, white, and blue dresses, suggesting that Roloff tried to garner support from state officials by presenting his program as if it were concerned with transforming residents into patriotic women living in accordance with God’s will. Further, that the clothing provided and mandated was gendered on the basis of Roloff’s fundamentalist beliefs. Aside from the clothing, residents were required to maintain a specific appearance, which included wearing no eye makeup.” p. 121

1977 Synanon establishes Punk Squad boot camps for troubled youth, most attendees court ordered as an alternative to juvie

Synanon allowed violence against Punk Squad children because they were noncompliant, eventually allowed violence against splitees and enemies too

Dederich receives fed $ for Punk Squad, doesn’t want other kids in Synanon anymore → coerced vasectomies, abortions

The Seed’s reputation ruined by Ervin report

> “Despite public criticism of the Seed and its leader by former participants and their parents, as well as journalists, psychiatrists, and others, many people still believed in the efficacy of the program’s therapeutic approach, and set out to create “a new program with the same structure, with greater professional supervision and a different name.”” p 76

1976 $50k LEAA grant → Frank Zappala & Mel Sembler founded Straight Inc In St Petersburg, FL

> Whereas The Seed had been funded by the state, throughout Straight Inc.’s existence between 1976 and 1993 it operated as a non-profit organization that ran on donations. Yet, down to using blue plastic chairs like The Seed, the methods used at Straight Inc. “were virtually identical to those of The Seed and quite similar to Synanon.”247 Like its predecessors, this new iteration clearly reflected the brainwashing technologies used on USAF pilots held in Chinese and North Korean prison camps in the 1940’s-50’s, as Maia Szalavitz points out,248 which were simultaneously being used in the federal prison system to suppress radical social movements. P. 76

Attack therapy at Straight Inc: “rap sessions”

Straight Inc new arrivals: constant surveillance, including showering and using toilet
Had to ask permission from “oldcomers” to walk to another location while holding oldcomer’s belt loop”

Straight inc participants lived in host homes like at The Seed

Boys at Straight Inc were taunted with homosexual slurs and told that sex before marriage was “masturbating inside girls”, enforced shame-based Christian ideology about sex

“The parents of residents were not informed by administrators that the program was experimental,257 but instead were “told that if their children do not graduate, they will return to their prior bad behavior and almost inevitably die.”258 From this perspective, drug abuse “was not just dangerous or unhealthy, it was evil” and must be defeated “by any means necessary,” even “if that meant breaking the law, beating a child, [or] kidnapping someone.”” p 78

Alliance for the Safe, Therapeutic, and Appropriate Use of Residential Treatments (ASTART)

Several counselors quit Straight Inc in the first year, reported abuse to press and authorities

1977 Reverend Herman Fountain briefly works at Rebekah Home

1978 Synanon leadership gets caught buying $60k in firearms and ammunition for Santa Monica compound

Only 3 Black kids and 2 other POC kids at Straight Inc in 1978 - POC went to juvie or prison, white kids were sent to Straight to avoid the stigma of criminalization

Rev Herman Fountain buys property to establish Bethel Baptist Home for Children (BBHC) in Lucedale, MS

Established BBHC as a religious non-profit, tuition paid in legal form of “contributions”

The first 3 children at BBHC were “handed over to [Fountain] as a start to his ministry” p 159

July 1978 Rebekah Home resident stabbed by other residents in an attempted murder

October 1978 one of the Rebekah Home attackers tells *Corpus-Christi Times* it was an attempt to get sent home

Roloff's appeal to US Supreme Court denied October 2 "on the basis that his spiritually mandated duty to criminally abuse children was not protected by the first amendment, feeding his grievance as a fundamentalist that the state was the enemy of his religion"

Roloff backed gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements in his race vs John G Hill (former Attorney General who took Roloff to court), motivated previously unregistered white evangelicals to vote & elect Clements (first Republican governor of Texas since reconstruction)

1979 Attorney General Mark White files suit to shut down Rebekah Home immediately. "Government officials and state troopers were sent to the 557-acre property on June of 1979 with the intention of removing 200 girls from the facility, who Roloff referred to as 'prisoners of war'" p 124

Hundreds of supporters locked arms and surrounded Rebekah Home to prevent court order, referred to as Christian Alamo

Governor Clements orders state officials to leave after a three-day standoff

June 22, 1979 many girls temporarily moved to City of Refuge but returned a few months later

Clements "introduced three bills in the Texas legislature that would exempt the Rebekah Home and more than 2000 other church-operated homes from state licensing standards, but none were passed", all of them were shot down by legislators

Roloff transfers ownership of his youth residential programs from Roloff Evangelical Enterprises to the People's Baptist Church (now owned by Reverend Wiley Cameron)

September 15, 1979 Roloff Schools reopened

1980 Attny Gen Mark White files suit against People's Baptist Church seeking $46k in civil penalties for refusing to submit to state licensing requirements & inspections

38 children removed from BBHC when "a runaway from the school found suffering from scabies claimed that he was beaten there" but were returned soon after

Fountain creates a construction company using teenage residents of BBHC as unpaid labor - builds "dormitories, an office building, and a new church" in 8 years

Nancy Reagan visited Daytop Village in 1980

Fundamentalist-led Moral Majority supported Reagan's presidential campaign, Nancy adopted their talking points on the immorality of drug use and the usefulness of strict discipline

1982 bestselling book *Tough Love* by Phyllis and David York (counselors) based on AA principle of not enabling alcoholism, encouraged parents to kick out their drug abusing kids until they quit, characterized normal teenage behavior as “warning signs” of drug abuse

Tough Love support groups formed by parents around the USA

Nancy Reagan calls Straight Inc her favorite teen rehab after Florida visit in 1982, releases check list of “warning signs”

Straight opens programs in Atlanta, Cincinnati, Boston, Detroit, Orlando, Springfield VA, and SoCal between 1981-1989

1982 ACLU calls Straight ATL “concentration camp for throwaway kids”

Roloff Evangelistic Enterprises purchases 70 acres near Fort Thomas AZ, names “Regeneration Reservation” targets American Indians

Roloff dies November 2, 1982
Wiley Cameron takes over Roloff Evangelical Enterprises

1984 Texas Supreme Court rules that Roloff Homes are not protected by the first amendment

1985 Cameron transports ~100 children to Missouri to evade licensing regulations

Lichfield attends a LifeSpring seminar led by Gilcrease in mid-1980s

Gilcrease & Lichfield decide to work together to build programming for troubled kids based around LifeSpring Seminar programming

Connected to Gilcrease & Resource Realizations (supplied seminars & seminar leaders)

“Loosely associated legal entities… traded titles and ownership between J Ralph Atkin, Brent Facer, Ken Kay, Jay Kay, Narvin Lichfield”

1986 Narvin opens Majestic Ranch Academy Randolph Utah

1986 George W and Jeb Bush “overcome substance abuse issues through a faith-based approach in 1986, in part with the help of the founder of Straight Incorporated Mel Sembler

1987 girls from Rebekah Home transferred to New Bethany Home for Girls in Arcadia LA so they couldn’t be taken into state custody

1987 Lichfield forms Teen Help LLC

Teen Help was marketing arm, R&B Billing handled accounting & payments, Teen Escort Service transporters

WWASP incorporates 1988

1988 BBHC investigated and raided after a runaway reports abuse, other children verify his story in court

Herman Fountain called to testify, held in contempt of court for refusing to provide names and addresses of children and families to Judge Robert Oswald, jailed for several days, ordered to pay $1.5k per day until they agree to cooperate → Fountain agrees to transfer children to state custody without revealing info, is released anyway

When Fountain is freed, that same day, he is held in contempt of court again for refusing to cooperate, jailed for 30 minutes, returned to court and remained uncooperative

BBHC raided again, “met by dozens of church members, children, ministers from nearby states and other supporters” protesting and singing hymns

BBHC residents told by Fountain they were going to “the loony bin” and most fled when they saw police vehicles arrive

June 13, 1988 state officials return to get the rest of the kids who came back to the compound over the weekend, Fountain locks girls inside a church and has a 4-hour standoff with police

Fountain arrested for assaulting a policeman and inciting a riot, 7 employees also arrested, released on bail hours later

“In the eyes of [W] Bush’s campaign strategist, Ralph Reed, a former member of the Christian Coalition, the Christian Alamo revealed an opportunity to grow his client’s Texas voter base for his 2000 presidential election run. Given Bush’s story of recovery and turn to evangelicalism, the legal battle over state licensing of faith-based substance abuse rehabilitation provided a way for Bush’s campaign to ‘tap into the support of the huge fundamentalist evangelical unregistered voters to vote for him.’ I online with this strategy, as governor of Texas Bush set out to pass ‘laws that protected Faith-based groups from state interference with their religious approach.’ He also supported policy aimed at ‘forbidding lawsuits against personnel who worked in those facilities and pushed a voucher program to enhance federal funding of private religious schools.’” p. 129

Mel Sembler & Frank Zapala donate $250k to HW’s presidential campaign → Sembler becomes ambassador to Australia, Zapala becomes ambassador to Spain

Richard Bradbury - survivor/ex counselor of Straight Inc breaks into St Petersburg facility 1988 to draw attention to abuses

1989 Freedom of Religion Incorporated accuses BBHC of using slave labor to demolish a building in Mobile, AL, contacts press, AL gov, MS gov, US Dept of Labor

Herman Fountain found guilty of assault on a law officer, sentenced by Judge Clinton Lockard to 1 year in state prison, 4 years of probation, released on $40k bail

Child Residential Home Notification Act passes in MS in response to BBCH issues → all residential childcare facilities required to register w state and submit list of residents ages and names, plus their parents' names and addresses, also dictates children can be removed from noncompliant programs

1990 state officials seize 13 children from compound, Fountain still refuses to comply with CRHNA (passed 5 mos before)

BBHC ordered to close

1992 Mississippi Supreme Courth found Rev Fountain guilty of assaulting Patrol Captain Richard Smith in 1988 (tried to forcibly enter a room where children testifying against him were being held)

Fountain sentenced to five years in prison and four months of probation (serves a total of 9 months)

1992 Richard Bradbury appears on *Eye on Tampa* (local talk show) and presents photographic evidence of severe bruises on children, accompanies by 50 survivors with supporting testimonies → Bush rescinds support for Straight Inc

1993 all remaining Straight Inc facilities shut down

KIDS also used blue chairs

SAFE Orlando was established in Orlando Straight facility the day after it closed

1990 Bob Lichfield opens Cross Creek Manor La Verkin Utah

Last Synanon community disbands in 1991 (due to outstanding taxes owed)

1993 Bob Lichfield signs contract w Utah Alcoholism Foundation to manage Brightway Adolescent Hospital

1994 Paradise Cove established (first foreign WWASP)

LGAT concepts of free will mirror Christian beliefs, “promote an infantile belief in one’s own Godlike powers–not a healthy respect for what an individual can and cannot control.”

Cross Creek & Carolina Springs known to use conversion therapy

Conversion therapy survivors are twice as likely to commit suicide after treatment

Paradise Cove participants were forced to listen to motivational recordings (typically Tony Robbins or Stephen Covey) as punishment

“[Fountain] filed motions to the “George County Chancery and Youth Court asking it to release him from contempt of court and to dissolve an injunction keeping him from operating a home for youths.”

Lucedale compound reopens as Bethel Boys’ Academy

Sunrise Beach investigated by Mexican police in 1995

June 1995 Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) threatens to shut down Teen Challenge, Bush intervenes → “TCADA postponed judgment of the organization, dropped licensure demands, and agreed to wait until the legislature considered bills that could change the rules for Faith-based organizations”

1996 a boy is murdered by other students at Mountain Park Baptist Boarding Academy, “motivated by the urge to reclaim sense of dignity and control amidst the oppressive conditions at Mountain Park” p 131
MPBBA residents gained perks by becoming “orientation guides” → responsible for disciplining other students

Welfare Reform Act of 1996 “contained a stipulation allowing ‘states to contract with Faith-based and community-based organizations to provide welfare services’”

Bush establishes task force to “identify obstacles to faith-based groups” and “recommend ways that Texas can create an environment in which these groups can thrive, free of regulations that dilute the faith factor” p 132

Bush passes two bills that together “allowed Faith-based residential facilities and child care facilities to be certified by a Faith-based entity rather than licensure and regulation under the state” and “permitted Faith-based chemical dependency treatment programs to be exempted from state licensing and regulation.” p 133 (lobbied for by Wiley Cameron even though he was in MO, along with David Gibbs who served as primary witness)

1997 Survivor of the Lighthouse, John Downs founds Lighthouse Ministries Incorporated to use Roloff approach in Harris County Jail, Houston TX

1998 Texas Association of Christian Child Care Agencies (TACCCA) established for accreditation of religious schools, Wiley Cameron appointed member of accreditation committee

Gov Bush invites Roloff Homes to return to Texas and seek licensure under TACCCA

1999 The Lighthouse and the Rebekah Home reopen in TX

Morava Academy, Paradise Cove closed by local authorities

Surprise inspection at Rebekah Home → Faye Cameron (Wiley Cameron's wife) is banned from working at any youth homes operated by the People's Baptist Church by Texas Protective and Regulatory Services

US State Dept Bill Warren wrote to local govt officials near programs abroad describing concerns → local authorities investigate and close down High Impact, Tranquility Bay, Paradise Cove, Dundee Ranch

Bethel Academy for Girls opens

2000 two employees at Lighthouse arrested for unlawful restraint

2001 State legislature decides "not to renew the state's Alternative Accreditation program for faith-based child-care providers" → Rebekah Home and Lighthouse for Boys permanently close in TX

⅜ TACCCA accredited programs were owned by pastors on accreditation board, did not inspect facilities or police them

Girls from Rebekah Home transferred to a new facility in Devil's Elbow MO, renamed New Beginnings Girls Academy

2003 WWASP annual revenue $80mil → donate over $1m to Utah Republican Party & Governor NY George Pataki (allied w WWASP interests)

Joseph G Paolillo file $5mil fed lawsuit against BBA staff, including DI Knott (former marine instructor)

Herman's son, John "Brother Fountain" says in an interview with *Baton Rouge Advocate* that BBA has court-ordered students

2003 Bob Lichfield describes his schools as a moral mission

Lawsuit filed by MPBBA survivors claiming owners “routinely pressure children in their care to remain with the facility as employees for less than minimum wage” p 145

John Fountain becomes director of BBA

13 children removed from BBA

Several abusive staff are fired (allegedly)

Chancery Court Judge Pat Watts of Jackson County consent decree with stipulations for BBA to remain open, would expire after 3 years of compliance

BBA makes changes ordered by the state: installing cameras, hiring a barber, hiring a nurse, establishing a board of directors for supervisory control

2004 Mountain Park Baptist Academy shut down

2.5k children living in WWASP-affiliated programs

Youth Foundation Success Academy shared site with Horizon Academy → became 3 points center

BAG investigated for abuse, 38 children transported by bus and police cruiser to a National Guard post where they were questioned and examined by state authorities

October 2004 MDHS interviews 100 childen

2011 New Beginnings Girls Academy rebrands as Marvelous Grace Girls Academy and moves back to Pace FL, operating under exec director of NBGA, Steven Blankenship

“The disciplinary approach at the Roloff Homes rested on the fundamentalist belief that children are inherently sinful and must be redeemed through pain and deprivation, as had been the case in his childhood home and as he interpreted from the bible as an adult.” p 149

2005 BBA rebrands to Eagle Point Christian Academy (EPCA)

February 16, 2005 - Riot at BAG, several girls run away and report abuse to parents, press, and authorites

April 9, 2005 - Riot at EPCA, 7 children hospitalized, 6 taken into custody for disorderly conduct

April 14, 2005 - “George County Youth Court designated an “improvement plan” for EPCA following the riot, which included hiring the services of a private security firm called Mississippi

Security Police Inc. for the “security of the kids and for the community,” as Sheriff Garry Welford put it.256 Within month after the riot, the head of the security firm, a man named Tony Best had fired a “drill instructor for ‘aggressive behavior,’ which he described as pushing cadets.”257 In the same period, the George County Chief Deputy Sheriff J.D. Mitchell claimed to have received no reports of escapes or abuse.”

Lawsuit from 2001 in June 2005 finally settles: Fountains & staff required to pay $900k for abusing Joseph G Paolillo

2006 BAG rebrands to Pine View Academy (PVA)

EPCA sold to Narvin Lichfield & rebranded Gulf Coast Academy

2007 eight children arrested at GCA for a serious fight

After a series of escapes, all 33 boys in GCA were transferred to a different facility in SC

GCA closes permanently soon after, remaining children transferred to another facility in NC owned by Lichfield (likely Seneca Ranch)

2015 Youth Restoration Academy in Prichard AL closes (new workplace of DI Knott) following a police raid

2017 Knott convicted of child abuse and sentenced to 60 years in prison

Peoples Baptist Church Ministries still owns programs for adults - Roloff Men’s Home and The Jubilee Ladies’ Home Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center